Report of Camp Cost Study, 1949

May 1, 1950

Introduction

The camp cost sheets which have been sent out annually for the past three years by the Camp Bureau of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Boston were returned for the 1949 season by 29 camps. The following summary and analysis of the information supplied by the camps was prepared by the Research Division of UCS.

After three years' experience with cost figures it can be stated that the chief value of the study seems to be the presentation in detail of actual expenditures of a group of camps of different sizes and types, rather than any generalizations that can be made from the individual reports. Conclusions as to the most efficient size or set-up of a camp cannot be drawn from such a small number of reports, nor from material which omits all consideration of aims and quality of camp programs.

There is also still considerable incomparability of figures because of the different ways that camps report such expenses as major repairs, wages for maintenance work, and allocated amounts of the salaries of year-round agency staff. Perhaps clearer and more complete instructions to accompany the cost sheet would help to iron out some of these discrepancies.

Costs in Individual Camps

The 1949 disbursements of 25 camps, grouped according to size and sex served, are shown in detail in Table I, together with per capita costs of camp as a whole and of food and salaries. The other 4 camps are not shown in this table because none of them fitted into a group with other camps.

For 26 camps (omitting 3 with very specialized programs) the total cost of camp ranged from $12.46 to $28.77 per camper per week. For 14 of the 26 camps, or over one-half, the figure was between $20 and $25, while for 10 camps it was under $20 and for only 2 camps it was over $25. The average was $20.93 per week, or $2.99 per day, compared with a per capita daily cost of $3.02 for 28 camps compared in the 1948 study. (Table II)

SUMMER CAMP COSTS 1949 - FROM REPORTS BY 25 CAMPS

Operating Supplies	Medical Supplies & Service	Admin. Supplies	Program Supplies	Laundry	Electricity	Water	Taxes	Rent
$ 107	$ 15	$ 112	$ 284	$ 168	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
96	57	130	178	302	82	99	-	-
231	23	81	171	143	39	51	-	-
116	150	11	64	127	43	-	30	-
228	99	90	46	17	188	-	10	-
259	110	83	226	110	52	108	-	-
221	182	244	157	832	130	40	-	-
47	60	96	400	400	225	-	-	-
-	104	283	473	51	-	-	-	-
-	291	344	294	NR*	474	-	-	-
369	343	476	743	130	199	-	125	-
528	-	200	135	138	125	-	-	-
199	18	234	19	7	114	-	-	-
109	97	52	358	-	-	-	-	400
163	28	175	19	13	64	-	-	-
99	17	251	28	18	97	-	528	-
452	142	347	138	NR*	NR*	-	-	-
557	86	235	319	34	117	-	-	-
-	37	116	93	19	158	-	-	-
908	-	212	318	-	150	107	-	-
791	58	135	139	NR*	NR*	-	-	-
601	43	297	602	"	"	-	399	-
592	97	450	21	24	185	-	-	-
706	290	799	581	108	131	-	-	-
161	41	309	50	55	-	-	477	-

Repairs	New Equipment	New Construction	Transportation	Publicity	Insurance	Miscellaneous	Non current expense	Weekly cost
$ 68	$ -	$ -	$ 122	$ -	$ 210	$ 693	$ -	$20.30
313	134	-	111	-	214	-	-	20.86
429	33	-	524	18	58	23	8657	24.01
115	-	-	497	-	-	47	-	20.02
202	54	16	1207	13	-	1	-	21.63
1114	-	-	376	63	479	-	1011	17.01
905	-	-	250	-	539	64	2469	28.77
1100	322	200	670	-	1000	100	2000	24.85
375	117	-	229	-	416	430	-	15.40
647	-	-	924	-	450	233	-	23.80
274	-	-	193	-	961	425	-	23.73
1351	-	-	556	102	365	-	-	24.78
1090	780	-	281	104	498	18	-	15.47
-	189	-	157	-	-	-	-	12.46
1824	76	-	131	67	357	129	1500	18.13
1101	31	-	325	69	270	74	1125	19.67
1240	433	-	698	248	762	999	-	23.10
820	372	-	172	343	670	110	2062	16.17
880	814	125	182	-	324	54	3104	22.26
459	210	-	1144	5132	556	330	1095	22.75
366	-	-	704	339	307	1023	-	17.29
1749	403	-	479	407	643	1700	2600	27.51
1803	1405	-	337	151	831	59	-	16.17
1001	139	-	933	506	416	222	-	24.43
341	-	-	2425	229	750	204	1844	23.03

Camp	Total Cost	Per Camper Day	Sal-aries	Per Camper Day	Food	Per Person Day	Per Camper Day	Fuel & Ice
For 35-45 Girls								
Camp 1	$5415	$2.90	$1995	$1.07	$1534	$ .61	$ .82	$107
Camp 2	7821	2.98	3540	1.35	2175	.64	.83	390
For 30-80 Boys & Girls								
Camp 3	6970	3.43	2255	1.11	2655	1.01	1.31	235
Camp 4	4806	2.86	1197	.71	2348	1.05	1.40	61
Camp 5	6571	3.09	2208	1.07	2169	.75	1.02	24
Camp 6	9317	2.43	2675	.70	3509	.78	.91	154
Camp 7	13625	4.11	7003	2.11	2951	.59	.89	109
For 65-80 Boys								
Camp 8	14981	3.55	5250	1.24	4951	.88	1.17	160
Camp 9	8945	2.20	2025	.50	4200	.80	1.03	242
Camp 10	15532	3.40	4140	.91	7584	1.35	1.66	153
Camp 11	14423	3.39	3904	.92	6066	1.13	1.43	213
For 65-80 Girls								
Camp 12	14788	3.54	6778	1.62	4344	.73	1.04	167
Camp 13	10356	2.21	2395	.51	4427	.72	.94	172
Camp 14	4239	1.78	1245	.52	1631	.59	.69	-
Camp 15	9599	2.59	2255	.61	4037	.75	1.09	262
Camp 16	8965	2.81	2505	.78	3436	.78	1.08	117
For 90-150 Boys								
Camp 17	17123	3.30	4933	.95	6204	.93	1.20	527
Camp 18	13304	2.31	4608	.79	4645	.65	.80	216
Camp 19	9819	3.18	3107	1.01	3819	.99	1.24	91
Camp 20	24869	3.25	9087	1.19	6087	.64	.79	169
Camp 21	13455	2.47	4028	.74	5181	.71	.95	384
Camp 22	20158	3.93	6804	1.33	5785	.83	1.12	270
For 100-150 Girls								
Camp 23	20959	2.31	4172	.46	10440	.84	1.14	393
Camp 24	22742	3.49	9483	1.46	6922	.79	1.06	507
Camp 25	15072	3.29	5040	1.10	4666	.78	1.02	323

*NR means no report

Camps spent for salaries all the way from 46¢ to $2.11 per camper day, the average being $1.00. Salary costs for 26 camps ranged as follows:

40¢	under	60¢	per	camper	day	4 camps
60¢	"	80¢	"	"	"	6 "
80¢	"	$1	"	"	"	3 "
$1	"	$1.20	"	"	"	6 "
$1.20	"	$1.40	"	"	"	4 "
$1.40	"	$1.60	"	"	"	1 "
$1.60	"	$1.80	"	"	"	1 "
$2.00	"	$2.20	"	"	"	1 "

Several of the camps reporting the lowest salary costs did not include under salaries the wage cost of maintenance and opening and closing camp, which most other camps did include here.

Food costs reflected the slightly lower food prices prevailing in 1949. The average amount spent for food in 1949 by all 29 camps was $1.07 per camper day or 81¢ per day per person fed. Corresponding figures for 32 camps in 1948 were $1.17 and 87¢. The range of daily food costs per person in 1949 was from 59¢ to $1.35, as shown below:

50¢	under	60¢	per	person	day	2 camps
60¢	"	70¢	"	"	"	5 "
70¢	"	80¢	"	"	"	10 "
80¢	"	90¢	"	"	"	5 "
90¢	"	$1	"	"	"	2 "
$1	"	$1.10	"	"	"	2 "
$1.10	"	$1.20	"	"	"	2 "
$1.30	"	$1.40	"	"	"	1 "

For one-third of the 29 camps the cost was between 70¢ and 80¢ per person day, while for two-thirds it fell between 60¢ and 90¢.

Costs Compared for Different Groups of Camps

As in previous years, per capita costs in boys' camps, girls' camps, and camps for both boys and girls were compared. (Table II) From year to year, however, there emerges no consistent pattern of comparative costs according to type of camp. The only points that remain the same each year are a higher average food cost for boys' camps than for other types of camps, and a higher average salary cost for camps serving both boys and girls.

Table II

Daily Per Capita Camp Costs, 1949, by Type of Camp

	Total Cost per Camper Day	Salaries per Camper Day	Food per Camper Day	Food per Person Day
Average for all camps studied*	$2.99	$1.00	$1.07	$.81
Average for boys' camps	3.10	.96	1.15	.90
Average for girls' camps	2.79	.95	.97	.72
Average for camps for boys and girls	3.13	1.15	1.07	.79

*Per capita calculations for all items and for salaries throughout Table II are for 26 camps, while per capita figures for food are for 29 camps.

In 1949 the average food cost per person day in boys' camps was 90¢ compared with 79¢ in camps for boys and girls and 72¢ in girls' camps. Salaries, on the other hand, cost $1.15 per camper day in camps for boys and girls, but only 96¢ in boys' camps and 95¢ in girls' camps. Three of the camps with the highest per capita salary figures, however, were girls' camps, while one was a boys' camp.

Salaries Paid for Camp Positions

Information on salaries paid for individual positions was returned by 28 camps. Figures used here, except for salaries of some camp directors and caretakers generally represent cash salary for the summer season including brief pre-camp and post-camp periods. For most workers this was a period of 8 or 9 weeks. Salaries of counselors employed only part of the summer were adjusted on a basis of approximately two months. It can be assumed that practically all workers received board and lodging in addition to cash salary.

In general salaries for all camp positions were much the same in 1949 as in 1948.

Camp Director

Male	Female
1 at 300	8 at 375-475
4 at 500-600	3 at 500-650
3 at 700-900	1 at 900
4 at 1000-1100	1 at 1133
1 at 1500	1 at 1400

Most of the directors' salaries under $500 were in camps for under 100 children, but less than half the salaries of $1000 and over were in camps for over 100 children.

Assistant Director, Program Director, Head Counselor

Male	Female
1 at 100	1 at 125
8 at 200-250	4 at 200-280
7 at 300	3 at 300-380
3 at 400-484	3 at 400-450
1 at 500	

Salaries of assistant directors had little relation to size of camp, and were similiar for men and women.

Waterfront Director

Male	Female
1 at 150	1 at 90
3 at 200-240	3 at 150-175
1 at 300	3 at 200
2 at 400	
1 at 450	

In the 15 camps reporting waterfront directors women were paid less than men.

Other Specialty Counselors

Male	Female
4 at 50-90	3 at 25-85
3 at 100-135	11 at 100-135
1 at 175	4 at 150
8 at 200-225	3 at 200-250
1 at 300	

As in other years, counselors in charge of crafts, dramatics, etc. were paid slightly less than waterfront directors. More salaries of $200-300, however, were reported

in 1949 than in 1948, though several of them were found in camps not taking part in the 1948 study.

General Counselors

Male	Female
6 at 30-50	5 at 50-65
10 at 75-90	14 at 75-95
9 at 100-125	24 at 100-125
12 at 150-175	2 at 135-140
9 at 200	21 at 150-170
5 at 225-250	6 at 200
	2 at 250

Salaries of 125 leaders reported as general counselors or simply counselors ranged from $30-250. Approximately two-thirds were paid between $100-200 with little difference for men and women.

Junior Counselors

Male	Female
7 at 10-25	20 volunteers
13 at 40-65	11 at 10-25
8 at 75-80	13 at 35-40
	9 at 50-65
	3 at 75-80

For 64 leaders reported as junior counselors the salary range was $10-80 and 20 others were volunteers. Half the paid junior counselors received $35-50.

Nurse

Salaries of 22 camp nurses ranged from $100-325 as follows:

2 at 100-135
6 at 150-190
8 at 200-250
6 at 275-325

Cook and Assistant Cook

4 at 200-240	1 at 45
4 at 300	4 at 100-125
4 at 320-385	5 at 140-180
4 at 400-467	3 at 200
6 at 500-585	3 at 240-290
1 at 650	2 at 320-355
1 at 835	
1 at 1000	

Salaries of cooks were scattered all the way from $200-1000, and those of assistant cooks from $45-355.

Caretaker

Only 11 camps reported the position of caretaker with salaries as follows:

2 at 275-300
2 at 550-600
2 at 700-800
1 at 1000
1 at 1200
2 at 1650-1700
1 at 1800

Several of the lower figures were stated to be for the summer only, while the higher figures were for year-round jobs.